

**From:** Kevin Mashburn  
**To:** Kevin Mashburn  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 8:41 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Bond  
Senator Talent  
Representative McCarthy  
Message text follows:

Kevin Mashburn  
17 E. 53rd Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64112

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Kevin Mashburn

**From:** Maxbenjam@aol.com  
**To:** KathleenAbernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 8:33 AM  
**Subject:** PLEASE GIVE ME MORE LOCAL PHONE SERVICE COMPETITION

Commissioners,

I live in Brooklyn, New York, a fair sized burg of some 2 million people, part of the larger entity New York City (pop. 8 million +). I AM A VICTIM OF VERIZON'S HORRIBLE HORRIBLE SERVICE (OUTRAGEOUS RATES (\$47/mo. for local phone **use**), BADINONEXISTENT CUSTOMER SERVICE)...AND I HAVE LITTLE/NO CHOICE.

This strikes me as decidedly un-American. Verizon doesis doing what any Monopolist will do- no competition = d o the minimum you need to do for service, charge the highest rates tenable, make big fat profits.

Where is the competition?

Bring back the Old AT&T- at least they were highly regulated. My monthly phone service is costing me more than I can remember.

I implore you kind sir, please **use** the wisdom and weight of your office to bring LOCAL PHONE SERVICE COMPETITION to my little town, and to the rest of our great nation.

respectfully,

Max Benjamin  
249 6th Avenue  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

**From:** Gavin Mekemson  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 11:38 AM  
**Subject:** Comments to the Commissioner

Gavin Mekemson ([gavin@4mcomm.com](mailto:gavin@4mcomm.com)) writes:

Dear Commisioner Adelstein,

As the Triennial review rapidly approaches-  
I recognize that there are many parties to satisfy, and therefore a healthy balance is key

Although it is an uncommon analogy, we can link the current UNE-P (~~de~~)regulation debate to what the natural world reminds ~~us~~ if we dare to look.

Diversity is the key to existence. As biodiversity supplies checks and balances to maintain ecosystem integrity, diversity (competition) in the telecommunication sector maintains checks and balances necessary to sustain the "whole", allowing consumers a choice and small business the ability to get on their feet and possibly even flourish.

Please allow America to create a healthy and diverse telecommunications sector... a monoculture of control will ultimately lead to dis-ease of consumers and ~~endangerment/extinction~~ of small business.

**As** Americans, our patriotism is predicated on the terms of free enterprise and freedom of choice. With limited access to the UNE-P, small business and ultimately, millions of consumers, are limited and muted.

Thank you for your time,

Gavin Mekemson

-----  
Server protocol: HTTP/1.1  
Remote host: 64.68.240.240  
Remote IP address: 64.68.240.240

**From:** Harry J. Mc Crossin  
**To:** Harry J. Mc Crossin  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 11:26 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Specter  
Senator Santorum  
Representative Weldon  
Message text follows:

Harry J. Mc Crossin  
310 S Springfield Rd.  
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Harry J. Mc Crossin

**From:** John Milliman  
**To:** John Milliman  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 12:05 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Feinstein

Senator Boxer

Representative Hunter

Message text follows:

John Milliman  
13863 Tierra Bonita Rd  
Poway, CA 92064-3438

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

John Milliman

**From:** robert minich  
**To:** robert minich  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 8:43 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Schumer  
Senator Clinton  
Representative Walsh  
Message text follows:

robert minich  
8303 decoy run  
manlius. NY 13104

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

robert minich

**From:** KMitch6790@aol.com  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 9:56 AM  
**Subject:** fcc ruling

I am with a baby bell for my small business and home they are much more affordable and give good service the ma bells need competition so let them stay

Thank You  
Craig Mitchell

**From:** Clayton Munson  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 12:07 PM  
**Subject:** UNE-P

Isn't it time to give up the fight and **do** what's right for the citizens of the United States and keep UNE-P as it is??

---

MSN 8 with e-mail virus protection service: 2 months FREE\*  
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus>



**From:** Forest and Mrs. Alicia Newman  
**To:** Forest and Mrs. Alicia Newman  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 12:36 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Wyden

Senator Smith

Representative Hooley

Message text follows:

Forest and Mrs. Alicia Newman  
5990 Valhalla Drive  
Neskowin. OR 97149

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here]

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Alicia and Forest Newman

**From:** Bob Nilsen  
**To:** Bob Nilsen  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11.2003 12:47 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator McCain  
Senator Kyl  
Representative Kolbe  
Message text follows:

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Bob Nilsen  
1320 W. Kimberly St. #230  
Tucson, AZ 85704-2303

February 11,2003

[recipientaddress was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. **As** a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Bob Nilsen

**From:** Venita Norman  
**To:** Venita Norman  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 12:02 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Feinstein

Senator Boxer

Representative Thomas

Message text follows:

Venita Norman  
4217 Kingman Lane  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-5900

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm **also** concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Venita Norman

**From:** Buddy Ortale  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 3:27 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Triennial Review

Please **see** below message

----- Original Message -----

From: Buddy Ortale

To: mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; jadelst@fcc.gov

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2003 2:24 PM

Subject: Triennial Review

While I know you are in the 11th hour, I just wanted to remind each and everyone of you that the Telecom Act of 1996 has been and continues to be good for consumers. The Act is very clear (both explicit and implicit). Do not let politics (i.e., pressure from those such as Billy Tauzin who are on the take from the Bells' for big money) decide this. The 96 Act is clear and it is incumbent upon you the commissioners' to uphold the law that Congress signed.

Doing the right thing is not necessarily the easy thing...especially in the face of political pressure. But these Bells' have operated as monopolies long enough...with very little innovation and imagination, and have done everything possible to get around this...including their greatest weapon...STRATEGIC INCOMPETENCE!! UNEs, including switching at telric pricing are what the Act demanded. Do what Congress intended and don't bow to pressure!

Sincerely,

Buddy Ortale

**From:** paradaly  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, Jan 31, 2003 3:05 PM  
**Subject:** a plea for the average American

I can only assume that as Bush appointees you have a tendency to favor the big-money elites over the ordinary citizen, but I am writing anyway, in hopes of helping you understand how important your decisions are to the future health of our republic. As Thomas Jefferson understood, and wily politicians (and oppressive dictators) to this day understand in the deepest marrow of their being, education is the cornerstone of government. To control the dissemination of information is tantamount to controlling everything.

Jefferson assumed that those following in his footsteps would naturally want the highest level of education to prevail, in other words, the truth. But he lived during a period of incredible idealism and selflessness. It was the aristocracy that risked their comfortable lives for our freedom. Times have changed, and not all for the worse, but one drastic and regrettable change is the way the public is informed. By allowing our God-given airwaves to be usurped by the forces of capitalism, and then cynically realizing how wonderful a mechanism this is for allowing the 'right' information to be broadcast (rather than the truth), our leaders have turned the Jeffersonian ideal of an informed electorate upside down.

You, my friends, are in a position to help stop this corruption of our system of government. The owners of the networks, cable companies, and such corporate behemoths as Clear Channel do not have the 'education' of the public as their primary concern, and so would not dare inform them of the link between soda consumption and diabetes (when soda ads are some of their biggest sources of revenue) even in the face of a mounting epidemic of diabetes, nor would they air a news story of Coca Cola buying water rights in India, thus literally leaving Indian villagers high and dry. What about Clear Channel's "suggested list of banned songs? What about CNN licking its chops because a war will boost ratings? We have reached a state of censorship and propagandizing, yet most people are unaware.

Please support more diversification and greater freedom of our airwaves. Please insist on free air time for all political candidates, even those from third (and fourth and fifth) parties. Please demand that public forums and debates be included in the programming formats of all cable, television, and radio stations.

I know it is tempting to **use** your power to maintain the status quo. I am sure the big-shots at NBC (General Electric) et al are pressuring you to allow for continued monopolization of the airwaves. I will be so proud (and send you a grateful thank you note) if you do not cave to such pressure, but instead look at the future of this great nation, and base your decision on the best way to maximize dissemination of the real truth, not Madison Avenue's version of it.

Thank you for considering my plea. Sincerely, Kate Paradis

---

Do you Yahoo!?  
Yahoo! Mail Plus - Powerful. Affordable. Sign up now

**From:** Christine W. Parker  
**To:** Christine W. Parker  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 8:40 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Warner

Senator Allen

Representative Davis

Message text follows:

Christine W. Parker  
PO Box 1  
North, VA 23128

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Christine W. Parker

**From:** Philip Peck  
**To:** Philip Peck  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Lautenberg

Senator Corzine

Representative Ferguson

Message text follows:

Philip Peck  
16 Highview Dr  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-3905

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

(732) 602-1240

Sincerely,

Philip **M.** Peck

**From:** June Peterson  
**To:** June Peterson  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 1:21 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Lugar  
Senator Bayh  
Representative Hill  
Message text follows:

June Peterson  
2611 Downey  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

June Peterson



**From:** Gary A. Plunkett  
**To:** Gary A. Plunkett  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 3:07 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Representative Burton

Message text follows:

Gary A. Plunkett  
125 E. South St.  
Shelbyville, IN 46176-2148

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Plunkett

**From:** Ralph Randau  
**To:** Ralph Randau  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 4:31 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed **FCC** Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Feinstein

Senator Boxer

Representative Cunningham

Message text follows:

Ralph Randau  
1739 Greentree Rd.  
Encinitas, CA 92024

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Ralph R. Randau

**From:** Ric Ritchison  
**To:** Ric Ritchison  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 10:19 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Lugar  
Senator Bayh  
Representative Carson  
Message text follows:

Ric Ritchison  
955 N. Arlington Ave.  
Indianapolis., IN 46219-4510

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Ric and Debbie Ritchison

**From:** J. L. Roberts  
**To:** J. L. Roberts  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 11:24 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Graham

Senator Nelson

Representative Brown-Waite

Message text follows:

J. L. Roberts  
5914 Jessup Dr.  
Zephyrhills,, FL 33540

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. **As** a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

J. L. Roberts

**From:** Oscar Rosero  
**To:** Oscar Rosero  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 10:44 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Dodd  
Senator Lieberman  
Representative Shays  
Message text follows:

Oscar Rosero  
54 W. North St. Apt 410  
Stamford, CT 06902-2225

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Oscar Rosero

**From:** Madonna Sappenfield  
**To:** Madonna Sappenfield  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 1:41 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Hagel

Senator Nelson

Representative Terry

Message text follows:

Madonna Sappenfield  
2422 N. 145 St.  
Omaha, NE 681164107

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Madonna Sappenfield

**From:** Vincent Schwenk  
**To:** Vincent Schwenk  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 12:25 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Specter  
Senator Santorum  
Representative Murtha  
Message text follows:

Vincent Schwenk  
506 Clifton St  
New Eagle, PA 15067

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Vincent J Schwenk

**From:** Marietta Seay  
**To:** Marietta Seay  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 9:48 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Lincoln  
Senator Pryor  
Representative Berry  
Message text follows:

Marietta Seay  
13 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Cherokee Village, AR 72529-4211

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Marietta Seay



**From:** Joseph Scott  
**To:** Joseph Scott  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 1:29 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Schumer  
Senator Clinton  
Representative Sweeney  
Message text follows:

Joseph Scott  
470 Pine Hill Rd.  
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. **As** a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Scott

**From:** Marlene Sorget  
**To:** Marlene Sorget  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 9:21 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Levin

Senator Stabenow

Representative Miller

Message text follows:

Marlene Sorget  
36790 Lakeview  
Richmond, MI 48062

February 11.2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Marlene Sorget

**From:** TEJL@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Tue. Feb 11, 2003 3:43 PM  
**Subject:** Unbundled pricing/Wireline competition

Dear Mr. Powell:

Having been in the telecom industry for over twenty years I find it inconceivable that the FCC would take a stance to destroy competition in a market that is in the throws of becoming a second rate service when compared to the rest of the world. After all the local operating companies have for years been allowed to earn a rate of return based on purchases put into the rate base. By allowing this rate of return philosophy the various states and federal governments have subsidized the phone service without a great deal of consideration to what goes into that number. Now that competition is coming into play they want to take their equipment, paid for many times over by the rate payer, and lock it down so that it is impossible for a new venture to enter their market and provide services.

It hurts to say this but why not **use** the Japanese model --- it works for them and the penetration of Broadband at a reasonable price has been very effective though not painless. The way this should be done in the US is to allow the bells to earn a rate of return on the wire into the home. Since that has been there forever the depreciated cost to the RBOC's cannot be that high. Any return on that facility should be pretty much gravy. Allow a greater price on the shared facility. That is a reasonable request from the competitors perspective since they will not have to build out that facility. This can be done while still allowing this country the opportunity to bring its telecommunications networks up to the standards of the other countries of the world. If something is not done then your legacy will be one that describes the demise of US superiority in communications and thus a decline in the quality of life in this country.

The following Business Week commentary is telling.

The story of broadband provides a telling contrast between what has gone wrong in the US telecommunications business since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act -- and what has gone right in Asia. In the US, the Bells invested billions in broadband just as venture capitalists funded numerous DSL startups -- creating huge excess capacity. The Bells' debt ballooned, in part because of their broadband investments, and most DSL startups hit the skids: Even the largest independent DSL provider in the US -- Covad Communications -- had to endure a restructuring while in bankruptcy protection, which it exited in 2001. US consumers have borne the brunt of such miscalculations: The average American household with broadband now pays \$45 a month -- expensive enough to slow growth in sign-ups.

Asian telecom companies, by contrast, arrived at the party relatively late, and partly by luck avoided most of the excesses that have vexed their US counterparts. Thus, established carriers in Asia have cashed in on the broadband craze without blowing through nearly as much money as the Bells did -- even as broadband entrepreneurs have done well enough that some have a chance to prosper. For instance, eAccess is profitable on the basis of EBITDA -- earnings before taxes, interest, depreciation, and amortization. "We are the first competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) in the world to hit that mark," Semmoto boasts.

**GOOD TIMING.** The biggest winners, though, may be Asian consumers. In many instances, they get DSL access that's 10 to 20 times as fast as that in the U.S. -- for as little as \$20 a month. And they've jumped at the bargain: South Korea boasts the highest broadband penetration of any nation, at 58% of households.

Asia's good timing will probably pay off for years to come. By the time Asian companies got serious about broadband they could buy much better gear for as little as 20% of what their US counterparts paid. That accounts for their faster Net access and lower prices -- and quicker adoption by Asian consumers. That in turn has spurred online gaming, which has caught on faster in Asia than in the US -- and helped carriers recoup their infrastructure investments. High urban densities helped hold down those investments, since high-rise networks are cheaper to build than those that span US suburbs.

In many instances, regulation in Asia has also been friendlier to entrepreneurs --and kept the big state monopolies honest. In South Korea, owners of the large apartment blocks that house **40%** of the population also control the tele.com equipment in their buildings. That has given upstart carriers an opening, since they can negotiate deals directly with landlords instead of going through Korea Telecom. Thus, the country's leading independent DSL provider -- Hanaro-- has been able so far to compete head-to-head with both Korea Telecom and cable-TV providers. And unlike in the **US**, the big companies aren't hurting. Of the 10 most profitable major telecoms worldwide in 2002, seven were in Asia, according to the International Telecommunications Union.

**TORRID SIGN-UPS.** In Japan, Semmoto says, the government has enforced regulations that require incumbent phone companies to give new competitors such as eAccess capacity in their central switching facilities at reasonable rates. In the **US**, by contrast, the Bells and upstart carriers traded lawsuits over such arrangements -- and companies such as Covad (COVD) now accuse the Bells of throwing up roadblocks that impaired their businesses.

The most telling evidence of Asia's advantage may be what happens next. In the US, broadband subscriber growth logged 59% last year as carriers have kept prices high to turn a profit. In Asia, where household incomes are significantly lower, the sign-up rate remains torrid (though from a much lower base). As of last June, China had well under 1 million DSL subscribers. By January, 2003, it had close to 3 million, making it the fastest-growing broadband sector of any country in the world. In Japan, the tally has reached 6 million after only four years of serious marketing -- and may reach 12 million by **2004**, according to Yankee Group.

Better technology also means bigger revenue opportunities than online gaming. Korea Telecom serves Net-based software for a fee via broadband links to small businesses, an idea that so far has failed in the US "We have enough people on the systems and fast enough networks that the application-service-provider model works even though it didn't in the **US**," says Sang-Hoon Lee, Korea Telecom's chief technology officer.

"**VERY THREATENED.**" Of course, Asia's phone carriers could still face big problems. The broadband companies have started to offer Internet phone service, for example, forcing the incumbents to face a Faustian choice of ultimately embracing that technology and cannibalizing their still-lucrative phone monopolies or mounting a rear-guard action. "Nippon Telegraph & Telephone in Japan is very threatened with the introduction of Internet telephony," says Izumi Aizu, a principal at Tokyo-based consulting firm Asia Network Research. "They know that the good old days are gone."

No one said the transition to a broadband world would be painless, however. And the situation could be a lot worse: Had they been just a little faster on their feet, Asian companies might have landed on the same treadmill as their US cousins.

**From:** Thomas Waters  
**To:** Thomas Waters  
**Date:** Tue. Feb 11, 2003 3:41 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Hutchison

Senator Cornyn

Representative Rodriguez

Message text follows:

Thomas Waters  
1228 North Blvd  
Universal City, TX 78148-3519

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. **As** a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Waters

**From:** marie zipko  
**To:** marie zipko  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2003 8:53 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Specter  
Senator Santorum  
Representative Murtha  
Message text follows:

marie zipko  
729 berry road  
Washington, PA 15301-9770

February 11, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

marie e zipko